



## 2004 NORTH CENTRAL REGION ENCAMPMENT

# Daily Chronicle



**Sunday, 4 July • Encampment News and Events • Camp Dodge • Johnston, IA**  
*Story contributions, article ideas and your feedback are welcome. Editor: CAPT Bruce Tiemann*

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## Encampment Day 2: Cadets Focus on Teamwork

Day two of the 2004 NCR Encampment at Camp Dodge in Johnston, Iowa, proved to be an action-packed one for participants. Independence Day dawned bright and sunny, and started with physical training and drill for cadets before breakfast.

The encampment staff arranged for two religious observances for Civil Air Patrol personnel and U.S. Navy Sea Cadets who were also attending their own encampment at Camp Dodge, including a celebration of Catholic Mass, and later a non-denominational service conducted by 1ST LT Roger Elliott, who urged attendees to carefully consider the things they do. He also issued a challenge for them to avoid using profanity. "We need to take who we are, and what we represent seriously, said Lieutenant Elliott. "I expect -- and I encourage you -- to always be professional. That includes your language."

In the afternoon, cadets enthusiastically tackled the Camp Dodge Leadership Reaction Course (LRC), an obstacle course with six wet and six dry hazards to overcome. According to Encampment Chief of Staff MAJ Brandon Butters, the LRC is really all about teamwork. "It encourages the underdog or the quiet person to come forward and offer suggestions about how to solve the problem," said Major Butters. "None of these obstacles can be solved by just one person. If one person dominates the exercise, that team usually fails. It takes a contribution from everyone for the team to succeed."



Cadets employ teamwork and collective thinking to avoid falling into algae-laden, tadpole-infested water at the Camp Dodge Leadership Reaction Course on Sunday.

Cadets spent the afternoon switching between the LRC and the Firearms Training Simulator (FATS), a computer-generated firing range that allows participants to learn about handling loading and firing a genuine M-16 rifle operated by compressed air while experiencing several 'virtual combat' scenarios. "FATS teaches respect for firearms while providing real-world experience that weapons should be used cautiously – but not feared," said Encampment Chief Tactical Officer CAPT Troy Ruffin.

## Encampment Goes 'Radio-Active' with Local Media

Was that really NCR Encampment Commander MAJ Regena Aye's cheerful voice on WHO-AM in Des Moines today? Affirmative! News Reporter George Davison from the 50,000 watt, clear channel radio powerhouse conducted brief recorded telephone interviews with the Major and C/SMSgt. Kaitlyn Lentz, who is attending the NCR Encampment from Ohio and serving as Flight Sergeant for Bravo Flight – one of the two female cadet flights. The interviews were played back over WHO and its affiliate Radio Iowa stations throughout the day on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Major Aye discussed the benefits of Civil Air Patrol and the purpose of the NCR Encampment, while Cadet Lentz described the experience of attending her first encampment.

# COMMAND VOICE

*by MAJ Regena Aye, 2004 NCR Encampment Commander*

I hope the first day of encampment was as exciting for you as it was for me. I can already see that you are embracing your training here and working hard to meet the standards we have set for you. As you begin to get tired from the long hours, your body begins to miss the sugar and caffeine you are no longer eating, and the heat takes its toll, I thought you might need some inspiration to keep you motivated. This is the second column aimed introducing you to an American soldier who can teach us something about leadership. The individual I would like to tell you about today is Master Sergeant Roy Benavidez. Master Sergeant Benavidez is a Medal of Honor recipient who served with the 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group in Vietnam.

MSgt Benavidez was monitoring a reconnaissance operation near Loc Ninh in May 1968. A recon team had been inserted via helicopter into an area controlled by the enemy to gather intelligence about large-scale enemy activity. The team quickly met heavy enemy resistance and called for an emergency extraction; however, the helicopters that responded were unable to extract due to heavy enemy fire. MSgt Benavidez volunteered for another extraction attempt. When the sergeant arrived at the scene, all the men to the Recon Team were wounded or unable to get to the helicopter. MSgt Benavidez ran 75 meters under heavy enemy fire to the team's aid and was wounded in the right leg, his face, and his head before he reached them. Despite his injuries, Benavidez took charge of the situation, repositioned the team, directed their fire so a helicopter could land, and loaded up the wounded and dead team members while directing another aircraft to the team's location. The sergeant dragged half the team to the helicopter and then ran beside it providing small arms fire while it picked up the rest of the men.

MSgt. Benavidez then went the fallen team leader, who was near the perimeter, to destroy some classified documents so that the enemy could not acquire them. While attempting this action, he was wounded in the abdomen by small arms fire and the the back by grenade fragments. As his injuries worsened, enemy fire killed the helicopter pilot and the extraction aircraft crashed. Unwilling to give up, MSgt Benavidez secured the documents and went to the wreckage to help the wounded men escape the crash. He set the survivors up in a defensive perimeter moved around the area giving his men water and ammunition. The sergeant knew they couldn't hold out very much longer so he called in gunships to suppress enemy fire for another extraction attempt. While giving first aid to an injured soldier, he was wounded again in the thigh. He began moving wounded men to the extraction bird when an enemy soldier clubbed him from behind with a rifle. He fought and killed the soldier and then continued to take the wounded to the helicopter. He then killed two more soldiers who were rushing the extraction aircraft. He made on last trip to the perimeter to secure classified documents and bring the last wounded man to the helicopter. MSgt. Benavidez saved the lives of at least eight men and in accordance with tradition in the Special Forces -- no man left behind.

What can MSgt Benavidez teach us about leadership? There are two main lessons I would like to focus on with regards to his actions. If you have been in Civil Air Patrol for any length of time, you probably heard someone tell you to, "improvise, adapt and overcome." Throughout this ordeal, MSgt Benavidez improvised and adapted to the situation. From the time he volunteered to go and help his comrades, the sergeant met with obstacles at every turn, but each time he improvised or changed his plan. In the end, because he never gave up the sergeant was able to overcome the situation and saved the lives of eight men. You should follow MSgt Benavidez's example as you face challenges in your flight. If you do poorly on an inspection or if your flight does not win in a competition, look at your situation and see how you can adapt what you are doing to overcome the obstacle. Therefore, the first lesson is to, "improvise, adapt, and overcome." The second lesson is about teams. You and the other members of your flight are a team. Train as a team and work together. Don't leave a cadet behind at morning PT because he is a slower runner, slow down and encourage him to finish the run with the group. Don't treat the cadet who can't seem to make his bunk harshly, he is still a member of your team. A team learns together and progresses together. If you finish without all your teammates, you haven't really finished. Remember, "leave no man behind."